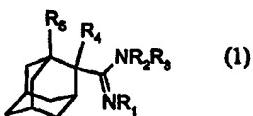




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 :	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/38841
C07C 257/16, C07D 333/24, A61K 31/155		(43) International Publication Date: 5 August 1999 (05.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/00321		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPo patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date: 1 January 1999 (01.01.99)		
(30) Priority Data:		
9802225.4	2 February 1998 (02.02.98)	GB
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CEREBRUS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Oakdene Court, 613 Reading Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 5UA (GB).		
(72) Inventors; and		
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MONCK, Nathaniel, Julius, Thomas [GB/GB]; Cerebrus Limited, Oakdene Court, 613 Reading Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 5UA (GB). GILLESPIE, Roger, John [GB/GB]; Cerebrus Limited, Oakdene Court, 613 Reading Road, Workingham, Berkshire RG41 5UA (GB). BIRD, Andrew, James [GB/GB]; Cerebrus Limited, Oakdene Court, 613 Reading Road, Workingham, Berkshire RG41 5UA (GB).		
(74) Agent: HOWARD, Paul, Nicholas; Carpmaels & Ransford, 43 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2RA (GB).		

(54) Title: ADAMANTANE CARBOXIMIDAMIDE DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE AS NMDA ANTAGONISTS



## (57) Abstract

A compound of formula (1), wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl and aryl; and prodrugs thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and use of the compounds in therapy, particularly for treatment of a condition generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission.

## Published

*With international search report.**Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.*

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

## ADAMANTANE CARBOXIMIDAMIDE DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE AS NMDA ANTAGONISTS

The present invention relates to compounds and compositions for use in the treatment of conditions generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission.

The excitatory neurotransmission underlying brain function is primarily (about 80 per cent) dependent on the action of glutamate and other related neurotransmitters on specific receptors activated by the excitatory amino acids. These receptors fall into several categories, one of which is the glutamate receptor specifically sensitive to the agonist N-methyl-D-aspartate (the NMDA receptor). NMDA receptor subtypes are ubiquitously expressed in mammalian brain and have unique properties underlying their role in synaptic function and plasticity. In view of the central role of these receptors in normal central nervous system function, numerous suggestions have been made as to the utility of drugs acting at this receptor to modulate the processes underlying various disease states. The NMDA receptor has been studied with particular interest in relation to its apparent involvement in the pathophysiology of neurodegenerative diseases.

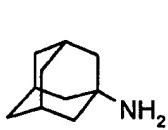
Non-competitive antagonists at this receptor should be particularly advantageous in the treatment of diseases since such compounds would have activity that should not be overcome by high levels of endogenous agonists and would act equally well independent of the endogenous agonist activating the receptor. This is important since high levels of endogenous glutamate can occur in certain pathological processes and there are a variety of different endogenous agonists that can act through a variety of specific modulatory agonist binding sites on the receptor.

A number of NMDA antagonists have been disclosed which operate by binding to the ion-channel of the NMDA receptor. The advantage of channel blockers is that they operate only on the "open" channel and therefore do not affect unactivated receptors. In addition they are effective regardless of the mechanism of receptor stimulation and their effect will not be diminished by large concentrations of endogenous agonist.

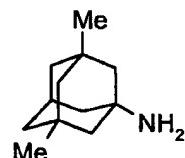
- Given that the NMDA receptor plays a primary role in normal central nervous system function, it is not surprising that certain drugs acting to block or antagonise the function of this receptor affect normal function within the brain. This may be manifested as central nervous system side effects such as hallucinations, confusion, paranoia, aggression, agitation and catatonia. These side effects can be described as a psychotic state and the drugs that induce them are known as psychotomimetic NMDA antagonists.
- Such side effects limit the utility of these compounds in treating disease states. NMDA receptor antagonists that have efficacy in treating central nervous system disorders but without such psychotomimetic side effects would have a clear therapeutic advantage.
- 10 Thus, in view of the crucial role played by the NMDA receptor in either the progression or expression of the disease pathology and process, it is an object of this invention to provide compounds for the treatment of central nervous system disorders which modulate the activity of the NMDA receptor but which are well-tolerated in the sense of having a markedly reduced propensity to induce psychotomimetic side effects.
- 15
- The present invention is particularly concerned with the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders. There is a large body of evidence to suggest that either an excitotoxic or slow excitotoxic pathological over-activation of the NMDA receptor induces the death of neurons in a variety of disorders such as ischaemic stroke, other forms of hypoxic injury, haemorrhagic brain injury, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and other dementing diseases. There is thus clear evidence that antagonism of the NMDA receptor will reduce or prevent the neurodegeneration that underlies the disease process in these and related conditions.
- 20 There is also evidence to suggest that a well-tolerated compound will allow effective symptomatic treatment of the manifestations of the disease process in these disorders as well as reducing the primary underlying neurodegeneration process. Also, it is known that disorders previously described as involving acute neurodegeneration have longer than expected elevations in glutamate release and consequently require longer than expected treatment with NMDA antagonists. There would therefore be a therapeutic advantage for
- 25 new drugs which are well-tolerated and which can therefore be administered chronically.

The published literature contains references to a number of compounds and classes of compounds purported to be useful as NMDA antagonists.

The compounds Amantadine and Memantine and related anti-viral agents have  
5 been known for many years.



Amantadine



Memantine

Patent applications have been filed directed to the use of Memantine in the  
10 treatment of Parkinson's Disease in the 1970s and as an NMDA antagonist in 1990 (see EP-A-0392059 and US-A-5061703). Furthermore, International Patent application WO94/05275 proposes the use of Amantadine and related compounds such as Memantine in the treatment and prevention of non-ischaemic, long term NMDA receptor-mediated neuronal degeneration. An increase in affinity for the NMDA receptor due to substitution  
15 of the adamantane ring of Amantadine with alkyl groups was noted and published in Kornhuber *et al.* (Eur. J. Pharmacol., 1991, 206, 297-300). Structure-activity relationships relating to 1-(adamantyl)alkanamines are reported by Kroemer *et al.* (J. Med. Chem., 1998, 41, 393-400), by Parsons *et al.* (Neuropharmacology, 1995, 34, 1239-1258) and by Fytas *et al.* (Il Farmaco, 1994, 49, 641-647).

20

1-(Adamantyl)amidines are disclosed as antivirals in DE-A-2306784, JP-A-7391049, DD-A-151447 and GB-1478477. 1-(Adamantyl)acetimidamide is disclosed in JP-A-120683 and GB-1478477. N-substituted-1-(adamantyl)amidines are disclosed in May *et al.* (Arzneim. Forsch., 1978, 28, 732-735), and the virostatic activities of the  
25 compounds reported. N-substituted-1-(adamantyl)amidines as antivirals are disclosed in Skwarski *et al.* (Acta. Pol. Pharm., 1988, 45, 395-399). 1- and 2-(Adamantyl)carboxamidoximes are disclosed as antivirals in US-3829581.

The antiviral activities of adamantane derivatives including 1-(adamantyl)carboximidamide and 1-(adamantyl)acetimidamide are reported by Inamoto *et al.* (J. Med. Chem., 1975, 18, 713-721), where they are compared with Amantadine.

5 As discussed above, psychotomimetic side-effects are observed during the use of a number of well known NMDA channel blockers and therefore it would be a considerable advantage to identify clinically well-tolerated antagonists where such side effects are minimised. Porter and Greenamyre (J. Neurochem. 1995, 64, 614-623; incorporated herein by reference) demonstrated that well-tolerated and psychotomimetic NMDA receptor channel blockers could be differentiated on the basis of their relative affinities for forebrain and cerebellar receptors irrespective of absolute affinities. Selectivity for cerebellar NMDA receptors over forebrain NMDA receptors is observed for well-tolerated compounds. The basis of this observation may be related to different populations of NMDA receptor subtypes in these brain regions.

10

15

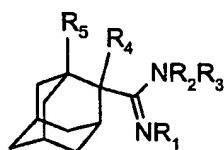
The use of a number of known NMDA antagonists such as Dizocilpine, PCP, Cerestat and Ketamine gives rise to a number of side effects, which render these compounds unsuitable for use in treatment. In particular, administration of the compounds is associated with perceptual and cognitive disturbances of a kind that resemble naturally-  
20 occurring psychotic states.

In addition, the perceptual and cognitive side effects of the compounds become more pronounced after the onset of puberty and sexual maturation, and these compounds are therefore particularly unsuitable for the treatment of adults. This developmental  
25 change has been demonstrated empirically in both experimental animals and in man, and is paralleled in experimental animals by brain hypermetabolism.

In summary, there is a need for an NMDA antagonist which is well-tolerated and does not give rise to the side effects associated with previous clinically investigated  
30 NMDA antagonists.

A number of compounds have now been found that show affinity for the NMDA receptor and are useful in the treatment of conditions generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission such as stroke, traumatic brain injury and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. It has also been  
5 found that the compounds have a surprisingly favourable ratio of cortical to cerebellar binding affinity which indicates that these compounds should be well-tolerated *in vivo*.

According to the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (1):



10

(1)

wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl and aryl;

15 and prodrugs thereof;  
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

As used herein, the term "alkyl" means a branched or unbranched, cyclic or acyclic, saturated or unsaturated (e.g. alkenyl or alkynyl) hydrocarbyl radical. Where cyclic, the alkyl group is preferably  $C_3$  to  $C_{12}$ , more preferably  $C_5$  to  $C_{10}$ , more preferably  
20  $C_5$ ,  $C_6$  or  $C_7$ . Where acyclic, the alkyl group is preferably  $C_1$  to  $C_{10}$ , more preferably  $C_1$  to  $C_6$ , more preferably methyl, ethyl or propyl, more preferably methyl.

As used herein, the term "aryl" means an aromatic group, such as phenyl or naphthyl, or a heteroaromatic group containing one or more, preferably one, heteroatom,  
25 such as pyridyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl and thiophenyl. Preferably, the aryl group comprises phenyl.

The alkyl and aryl groups may be substituted or unsubstituted. Where substituted, there will generally be 1 to 3 substituents present, preferably 1 substituent. Substituents may include:-

carbon containing groups such as

- 5                   alkyl,  
                     aryl, arylalkyl; (e.g. substituted and unsubstituted phenyl,  
                     substituted and unsubstituted benzyl);  
  
halogen atoms and halogen containing groups such as  
                     haloalkyl (e.g. trifluoromethyl);  
  
10                 oxygen containing groups such as  
                     alcohols (e.g. hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, (aryl)(hydroxy)alkyl),  
                     ethers (e.g. alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aryloxy),  
                     aldehydes (e.g. carboxaldehyde),  
                     ketones (e.g. alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl,  
                     arylcarbonyl, arylalkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonylalkyl)  
15                 acids (e.g. carboxy, carboxyalkyl),  
                     acid derivatives such as esters  
                     (e.g. alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl,  
                     alkycarbonyloxy, alkycarbonyloxyalkyl),  
  
20                 amides  
                     (e.g. aminocarbonyl, mono- or  
                     dialkylaminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylalkyl, mono-  
                     or dialkylaminocarbonylalkyl, arylaminocarbonyl),  
                     carbamates  
  
25                 (eg. alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino,  
                     aminocarbonyloxy, mono- or  
                     dialkylaminocarbonyloxy, arylaminocarbonyloxy)  
                     and ureas  
                     (eg. mono- or dialkylaminocarbonylamino or  
                     arylaminocarbonylamino);  
  
30                 nitrogen containing groups such as

amines (e.g. amino, mono- or dialkylamino, aminoalkyl, mono- or dialkylaminoalkyl),

azides,

nitriles (e.g. cyano, cyanoalkyl),

5 nitro;

sulfur containing groups such as

thiols, thioethers, sulfoxides, and sulfones

(e.g. alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsufonyl,  
alkylthioalkyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl,  
10 alkylsulfonylalkyl, arylthio, arylsulfinyl,  
arylsulfonyl, arylthioalkyl, arylsulfinylalkyl,  
arylsulfonylalkyl)

and heterocyclic groups containing one or more, preferably one, heteroatom,

(e.g. thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl,  
15 pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl,  
pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, imidazolidinyl,  
imidazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, oxadiazolyl,  
thiadiazolyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyranyl, pyronyl,  
pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, piperidyl,  
20 piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thionaphthyl,  
benzofuranyl, isobenzofuryl, indolyl, oxyindolyl,  
isoindolyl, indazolyl, indolinyl, 7-azaindolyl,  
benzopyranyl, coumarinyl, isocoumarinyl, quinolyl,  
isoquinolyl, naphthridinyl, cinnolinyl, quinazolinyl,  
25 pyridopyridyl, benzoxazinyl, quinoxalinyl,  
chromenyl, chromanyl, isochromanyl and  
carbolinyl).

As used herein, the term "alkoxy" means alkyl-O- and "alkoyl" means alkyl-CO-.

30 Alkoxy substituent groups or alkoxy-containing substituent groups may be substituted by one or more alkyl groups.

As used herein, the term "halogen" means a fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine radical, preferably a fluorine or chlorine radical.

As used herein the term "conditions generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission" primarily includes ischaemic stroke, haemorrhagic stroke, subarachnoid haemorrhage, subdural haematoma, coronary artery bypass surgery, neurosurgery, traumatic brain injury, traumatic spinal injury, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Pick's disease, Lewy body disease, senile dementia, spongiform encephalopathies, prion-protein induced neurotoxicity, peri-natal asphyxia, demyelinating disease, multiinfarct dementia, dementia pugilans, drug dependence, alcohol withdrawal, opiate withdrawal, motor neuron disease, multiple sclerosis, acute and chronic pain including neuropathic pain, cancer pain, trigeminal neuralgia, migraine, primary and secondary hyperalgesia, inflammatory pain, nociceptive pain, tabes dorsalis, phantom limb pain, spinal cord injury pain, central pain, post-herpetic pain, HIV pain and diabetic neuropathy. In addition, the term also includes the following conditions: epilepsy, AIDS dementia, multiple system atrophy, progressive supra-nuclear palsy, Friedrich's ataxia, autism, fragile X syndrome, tuberous sclerosis, attention deficit disorder, olivio-ponto-cerebellar atrophy, cerebral palsy, drug-induced optic neuritis, peripheral neuropathy, myelopathy, ischaemic retinopathy, glaucoma, cardiac arrest, meningitis, encephalitis, depression, bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, psychosis, behaviour disorders, impulse control disorders, pre-eclampsia, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, anorexia nervosa, anxiety disorders, generalised anxiety disorder, panic disorder, phobias, fresh water drowning and decompression.

As used herein the term "treatment" also includes prophylactic treatment.

As used herein the term "prodrug" means any pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug of the compound of formula (1). Examples of compounds which may be useful as amidine prodrugs have been published for example by Su *et al.* (*J. Med. Chem.*, 1997, 40, 4308-4318) who describe the use of N-benzyloxycarbonyl- and N-(acyloxy)methoxycarbonyl amidine derivatives, by Boykin *et al.* (*Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.*, 1996, 6, 3017-3020) who describe the use of amidoximes and O-alkylamidoximes,

and by Weller *et al.* (J. Med. Chem., 1996, 39, 3139-3147) who describe the use of N-alkoxycarbonylamidines as amidine prodrugs.

As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" means any pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of formula (1). Salts may be prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acids including inorganic and organic acids. Such acids include acetic, benzenesulfonic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, citric, dichloroacetic, ethenesulfonic, fumaric, gluconic, glutamic, hippuric, hydrobromic, hydrochloric, isethionic, lactic, maleic, malic, mandelic, methanesulfonic, mucic, nitric, pamoic, pantothenic, phosphoric, succinic, sulfuric, tartaric, oxalic, p-toluenesulfonic and the like. Particularly preferred are hydrochloric, hydrobromic, phosphoric, and sulfuric acids, and most particularly preferred is the hydrochloride salt.

The compounds of formula (1) may exist in a number of diastereomeric and/or enantiomeric forms. Reference in the present specification to "a compound of formula (1)" is a reference to all stereoisomeric forms of the compound and includes a reference to the unseparated stereoisomers in a mixture, racemic or non-racemic, and to each stereoisomer in its optically pure form.

The compounds of the present invention are active as NMDA antagonists and are well-tolerated in that side effects are minimised. Experimental data are shown in Table 1.

In the compounds of formula (1), preferably R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen.

20

In the compounds of formula (1), preferably R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen.

In the compounds of formula (1), preferably R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen.

25

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is selected from hydrogen, alkyl and aryl.

In a further preferred embodiment of the present invention, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen.

In the compounds of formula (1), preferably R<sub>4</sub> is selected from hydrogen and aryl, more preferably from aryl, more preferably from phenyl, substituted phenyl and thiophene, and more preferably from phenyl and substituted phenyl. More preferably, R<sub>4</sub> is substituted phenyl. Where R<sub>4</sub> is substituted phenyl, R<sub>4</sub> is preferably mono- or di-substituted phenyl, preferably mono-substituted phenyl and more preferably para- or ortho-substituted phenyl. Preferably, the substituent groups are independently selected from methyl, ethyl, methoxy, chloro and fluoro.

The preferred R<sub>4</sub> groups are selected from 4-methylphenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl.

In the compounds of formula (1), preferably, R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds of formula (1) are selected from compounds of formula (1) where R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are hydrogen; and R<sub>4</sub> is substituted phenyl.

In a further preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compounds of formula (1) are selected from 2-(4-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide, 2-(2-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide, 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide, 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide and 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide, and the hydrochloride salts thereof.

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention R<sub>4</sub> is selected from methyl, ethyl, cyclohexyl, benzyl and pyridyl. In a further embodiment of the present invention R<sub>5</sub> is selected from ethyl and phenyl.

The present invention also provides use of a compound of the formula (1) as defined above, and prodrugs thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission.

The present invention further provides a method of treatment of conditions generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission comprising administering to a patient an effective dose of a compound of formula (1) as defined above.

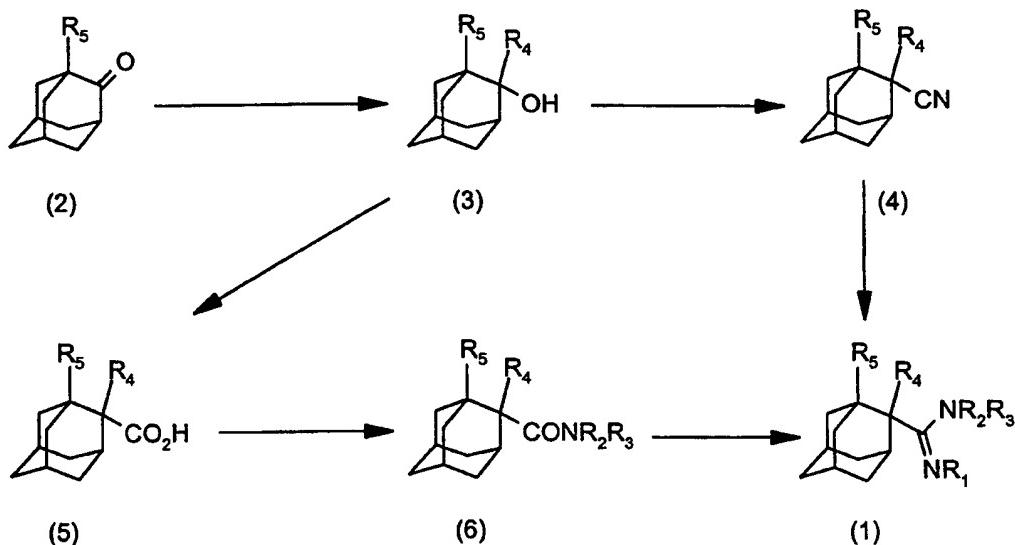
The present invention also provides a compound of the formula (1) as defined above, and prodrugs thereof, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof for use in therapy.

10

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing the compounds of the present invention. Compounds of formula (1) may be prepared by conventional synthetic methods as illustrated in the Reaction Scheme.

15

### REACTION SCHEME



Compounds of formula (1) where R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen may be synthesised from nitriles of formula (4) by conventional methods, for example by treatment with an amine in the presence of trimethyl aluminium in a refluxing solvent such as toluene for several days, or alternatively by treatment with HCl in dry methanol at 0 °C for several days, followed by

treatment with an amine at room temperature. Nitriles of formula (4) may be synthesised from alcohols of formula (3) by conventional methods, for example by treatment with TMSCN in the presence of a Lewis Acid such as  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  or alternatively from carboxylic acids of formula (5) by conventional methods, for example by treatment with 5 methanesulphonyl chloride in pyridine, followed by treatment with  $\text{NH}_3$ , followed by treatment with methanesulphonyl chloride in pyridine. Carboxylic acids of formula (5) may be synthesised from alcohols of formula (3) by conventional methods, for example by treatment with formic acid in the presence of concentrated sulphuric acid. Alcohols of formula (3) may be synthesised from ketones of formula (2) by conventional methods, for 10 example by treatment with Grignard reagents. Ketones of formula (2) are commercially available or may be synthesised by conventional methods as reported , for example , by Tseng *et al.* (*Tetrahedron*, 1988, **44**, 1893-1904) and by McKervey *et al.* (*J. Chem. Soc. C*, 1971, 3173-3179).

15 Compounds of formula (1) where  $R_1$  is alkyl or aryl may be synthesised from amides of formula (6) by conventional methods, for example by treatment with thionyl chloride or trimethyloxonium tetrafluoroborate followed by an amine. Amides of formula (6) may be synthesised from carboxylic acids of formula (5) by conventional methods, for example by treatment with thionyl chloride followed by an amine.

20 According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the present invention in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient. The compound of formula (1) may be administered in a form suitable for oral use, for example a tablet, capsule, pellet, 25 aqueous or oily solution, suspension or emulsion; for topical use including transmucosal and transdermal use, for example a cream, ointment, gel, aqueous or oil solution or suspension, salve, patch or plaster; for nasal use, for example a snuff, nasal spray, nasal powder or nasal drops; for vaginal or rectal use, for example a pessary or suppository; for administration by inhalation, for example a finely divided powder or liquid aerosol; for 30 sub-lingual or buccal use, for example a tablet or capsule; for ocular use, for example a sterile aqueous solution or sterile ointment; or for parenteral use (including intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravascular or infusion), for example a sterile aqueous or

oil solution or suspension or emulsion, or depot injection formulation. In general the above compositions may be prepared in a conventional manner using conventional excipients, using standard techniques, including controlled release technologies, such as gelatin, lipid, gel depot, liposome and microcapsule based systems well known to those skilled in the art of pharmacy.

For oral administration, the compounds of the invention will generally be provided in the form of tablets or capsules or pellets or as an aqueous solution or suspension.

Tablets or pellets for oral use may include the active ingredient mixed with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as inert diluents, disintegrating agents, binding agents, lubricating agents, sweetening agents, flavouring agents, colouring agents and preservatives. Suitable inert diluents include sodium and calcium carbonate, sodium and calcium phosphate, calcium hydrogen phosphate, cellulose derivatives and lactose, while corn starch and alginic acid are suitable disintegrating agents. Binding agents may include starch, gelatin and polyvinyl-pyrrolidone derivatives, while the lubricating agent, if present, will generally be magnesium stearate, stearic acid or talc. If desired, the tablets may be formulated or coated with a material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate or polymethacrylate polymers, cellulose derivatives or other pharmaceutically acceptable polymer, to delay absorption in the gastrointestinal tract.

Capsules for oral use include hard gelatin capsules in which the active ingredient is mixed with a solid diluent, and soft gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with water or an oil such as peanut oil, liquid paraffin or olive oil.

For intramuscular, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous and intravenous use, the compounds of the invention will generally be provided in sterile aqueous solutions or suspensions or emulsions, buffered to an appropriate pH and isotonicity. Suitable aqueous vehicles include Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride. Aqueous suspensions according to the invention may include suspending agents such as cellulose derivatives, sodium alginate, polyvinyl-pyrrolidone and gum tragacanth, and a wetting agent such as lecithin. Suitable preservatives for aqueous suspensions include ethyl and n-propyl p-hydroxybenzoate.

Transdermal formulations include membrane permeation systems, multi-laminate adhesive dispersion systems and matrix dispersion systems. Transdermal delivery also includes the use of electrically aided transport, skin penetration enhancers and needle-free injection devices.

- 5       The preferred route of administration will be as an intravenous infusion, preferably over a period of up to seven days, or as an oral formulation, or as an intramuscular injection via a styrette or as a subcutaneous injection.

It will be appreciated that the dosage levels used may vary over quite a wide range depending upon the compound used, the severity of the condition exhibited by the patient  
10      and the patient's body weight. However, without commitment to a rigid definition of dosages it may be stated that a daily dosage of the active constituent (estimated as the free base) is 100 µg to 800 mg. More particularly, the preferred compounds may be administered at a preferred dose of 50-800 mg/day in single or divided doses.

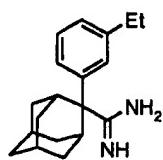
The invention will now be described in detail. It will be appreciated that the  
15      invention is described by way of example only and modification of detail may be made without departing from the scope of the invention.

## EXAMPLES

- 20      I. Synthetic Examples

### Example 1

#### **2-(3-Ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**



A stirring mixture of magnesium turnings (0.89 g, 36.6 mmol) and iodine (catalytic) in dry THF (60 mL) was treated with 3-bromoethylbenzene (5 mL, 36.6 mmol), refluxed for 3 h, cooled to room temperature, treated with a solution of 2-adamantanone (5.0 g, 33.3 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) and refluxed for 2 h. The mixture was cooled to room  
5 temperature, treated with 3-M HCl (20 mL), extracted with EtOAc (2 x 20 mL), the combined extracts were washed with water (10 mL), dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by chromatography [ $\text{SiO}_2$ ; heptane-EtOAc (9 : 1)] to give the product (7.84 g, 92 %) as a white solid: mp 63 - 65 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3442, 3281, 2921, 2855, 1604, 1451, 1101, 1043, 1009, 803 and 708; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  
10 1.23 (3H, t, *J* 7.5 Hz), 1.61 – 1.70 (9H, m), 1.89 (1H, s), 2.38 – 2.41 (2H, m), 2.56 (2H, s), 2.65 (2H, q, *J* 7.5 Hz), 3.46 (1H, s), 7.11 (1H, d, *J* 7.5 Hz) and 7.24 – 7.36 (3H, m); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}$ : C, 84.32; H, 9.43. Found: C, 84.24; H, 9.28.

*2-(3-Ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile*

15 A solution of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol (1.82 g, 7.14 mmol) in dry  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5 mL) under argon, was treated with trimethylsilyl cyanide (1.00 mL, 7.5 mmol), cooled to 0 °C, treated with  $\text{BF}_3$  etherate (1.10 mL, 8.57 mmol), allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The mixture was treated with dilute  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (10 mL), extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (2 x 10 mL), the combined extracts washed with water (10 mL), dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), concentrated *in vacuo* and purified by chromatography [ $\text{SiO}_2$ ; heptane-EtOAc (9:1)] to give the product (217 mg, 82 %) as a colourless oil: IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (thin film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2922, 2860, 2226, 1604, 1487, 1453, 1105, 799 and 704; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.24 (3H, t, *J* 7.5 Hz), 1.62 – 1.65 (2H, m), 1.70 – 1.82 (5H, m), 1.98 – 2.04 (3H, m), 2.45 – 2.48 (2H, m), 2.66 (2H, q, *J* 7.5 Hz), 2.79 (2H, s), 7.15 (1H, d, *J* 7.5 Hz)  
20 and 7.25 – 7.34 (3H, m); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{23}\text{N}$ : C, 85.99; H, 8.73; N, 5.28. Found: C, 85.85; H, 8.77; N, 5.23.

*2-(3-Ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride*

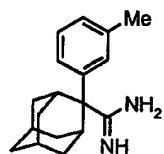
A solution of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile (265 mg, 1 mmol) and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$   
30 (107 mg, 2 mmol) in dry toluene (5 mL) under argon was treated dropwise with 2-M trimethylaluminium in toluene (1.0 mL, 2 mmol), refluxed for 12 h, cooled to room temperature and purified directly by chromatography [ $\text{SiO}_2$ ; EtOAc – MeOH (9:1)] to

give the *title compound* (178 mg, 56 %) as a white solid: mp >300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2921, 2855, 1669, 1454, 1377, 1089, 798, 744 and 704; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 1.18 (3H, t, *J* 8.0 Hz), 1.55 – 1.69 (7H, m), 1.83 (5H, s), 2.60 (2H, q, *J* 8.0 Hz), 3.15 (2H, s), 7.10 – 7.17 (1H, m), 7.27 – 7.38 (3H, m) and 8.88 (4H, br s);

5 Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>27</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub> · 0.35 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 70.18; H, 8.59; N, 8.61. Found: C, 70.25; H, 8.41; N, 8.46.

### Example 2

10 **2-(3-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**



**2-(3-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

15 This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(3-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (1.16 g, 66 %) isolated as a white solid: mp 85 – 86 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2924, 2858, 2225, 1604, 1455, 1378, 1103, 783 and 705; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.63 – 1.66 (2H, m), 1.76 – 1.82 (5H, m), 1.99 – 2.05 (3H, m), 2.38 (3H, s), 2.45 – 2.48 (2H, m), 2.78 (2H, s), 7.10 (1H, d, *J* 8.0 Hz) and 7.26 – 7.30 (3H, m); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N: C, 86.01; H, 8.42; N, 5.57. Found: C, 85.82; H, 8.50; N, 5.54.

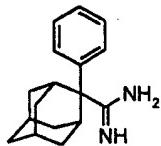
**2-(3-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(3-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (200 mg, 76 %) isolated as a white solid: mp > 300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2923, 2855, 1667, 1455, 1376, 1240, 1092, 1043, 722 and 708; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 1.59 – 1.65 (7H, m), 1.85 – 1.90 (5H, m), 2.31 (3H, s), 3.15 (2H, s), 7.10 – 7.12 (1H, m), 7.29 – 7.34 (3H, m), 8.79 (2H, br s) and 9.02 (2H, br s); Anal.

Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{25}ClN_2 \cdot 0.75 H_2O$ : C, 67.91; H, 8.39; N, 8.80. Found: C, 67.80; H, 8.31; N, 8.51.

## 5 Example 3

### 2-Phenyl-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride

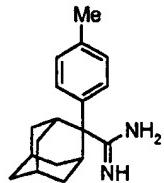


#### 10 2-*Phenyl-2-adamantanecarbonitrile*

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-phenyl-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (900 mg, 97 %) isolated as a white solid: mp 120 - 122 °C; IR  $\nu_{max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2924, 2852, 2221, 1598, 1494, 1453, 1376, 1363, 1108, 761 and 704; NMR  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.65 (2H, m), 1.73 – 1.83 (5H, m), 2.04 (3H, m), 2.48 (2H, m), 2.80 (2H, s), 7.32 (1H, m), 7.42 (2H, m) and 7.47 (2H, m); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N: C, 86.03; H, 8.07; N, 5.90. Found: C, 85.89; H, 8.15; N, 5.85.

#### 2-*Phenyl-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride*

20 This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-phenyl-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (148 mg, 61 %) isolated as a pale yellow solid: mp > 300 °C; IR  $\nu_{max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3062, 1669, 1102, 760 and 702; NMR  $\delta_H$  (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) 1.6 – 1.7 (7H, m), 1.8 – 1.9 (5H, m), 3.18 (2H, s), 7.3 – 7.6 (5H, m), 8.78 (2H, s) and 8.85 (2H, s);  
25 Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub> · 1.5 HCl: C, 66.07; H, 7.66; N, 9.06. Found: C, 66.28; H, 7.75; N, 8.88.

**Example 4****2-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarb ximidamide hydrochloride**

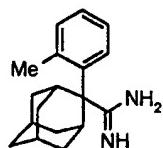
5

**2-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (933 mg, 54 %) isolated as a white crystalline solid: mp 99 - 100 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2921, 10 2855, 2221, 1514, 1453, 1377, 1194, 1100 and 813; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.64 (2H, d, *J* 13 Hz), 1.76 – 1.82 (5H, m), 1.99 – 2.05 (3H, m), 2.36 (3H, s), 2.46 (2H, d, *J* 13 Hz), 2.77 (2H, s), 7.23 (2H, d, *J* 8 Hz) and 7.36 (2H, d, *J* 8 Hz); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N: C, 86.01; H, 8.42; N, 5.57. Found: C, 86.11; H, 8.48; N, 5.57.

15 **2-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (188 mg, 62 %) isolated as a white solid: mp > 300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3278, 3112, 2929, 2855, 1670, 1455, 1377, 1022, 813 and 728; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) 1.58 – 1.65 (7H, m), 1.84 – 1.90 (5H, m), 2.28 (3H, s), 3.13 – 3.16 (2H, m), 7.22 (2H, d, *J* 8.0 Hz), 7.37 (2H, d, *J* 8.0 Hz) and 8.85 (4H, br s); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub> · 0.75 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 67.91; H, 8.39; N, 8.80. Found: C, 68.09; H, 8.60; N, 8.47.

**Example 5****2-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

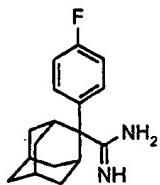
5

**2-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

- This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(2-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (580 mg, 34 %) isolated as a white solid: mp 80 - 81 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2922, 2854, 2220, 1487, 1451, 1378, 1365, 762 and 729; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.59 – 1.77 (6H, m), 1.97 – 2.03 (4H, m), 2.51 – 2.60 (5H, m), 2.90 (2H, br s), 7.21 – 7.26 (3H, m) and 7.40 – 7.43 (1H, m); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}$ : C, 86.01; H, 8.42; N, 5.57. Found: C, 85.97; H, 8.48; N, 5.56.

15 **2-(2-Methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

- This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(2-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (124 mg, 41 %) isolated as a white solid: mp >300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2923, 1667, 1458, 1377, 754 and 724; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ) 1.45 – 1.96 (13H, m), 2.50 (3H, s), 3.25 (1H, s), 7.12 – 7.28 (3H, m), 7.64 (1H, d,  $J$  8.0 Hz) and 8.85 (4H, br s); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_2 \cdot 2.75 \text{ HCl} \cdot 0.75 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 57.95; H, 7.57; N, 7.51. Found: C, 58.05; H, 7.53; N, 7.46.

**Example 6****2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

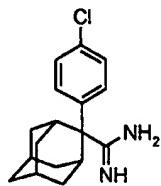
5

**2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (163 mg, 64 %) isolated as a white solid: mp 81 - 82 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2924, 2861, 2223, 1601, 1510, 1502, 10 1467, 1454, 1242, 1166, 1104 and 835; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.62 – 1.65 (2H, m), 1.74 (5H, s), 1.97 – 2.03 (3H, m), 2.44 (2H, d,  $J$  12.5 Hz), 2.73 (2H, s), 7.07 – 7.11 (2H, m) and 7.41 – 7.44 (2H, m); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{FN}$ : C, 79.97; H, 7.11; N, 5.48. Found: C, 80.02; H, 7.21; N, 5.47.

15 **2-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (147 mg, 48 %) isolated as a white solid: mp >300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3072, 2925, 2855, 1670, 1601, 1511, 1456, 1376, 1243, 832 and 732; NMR 20  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) 1.62 – 1.66 (7H, m), 1.85 (5H, s), 3.12 (2H, s), 7.26 – 7.30 (2H, m), 7.51 – 7.55 (2H, m) and 8.90 (4H, br s); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{ClFN}_2 \cdot 0.85\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 62.99; H, 7.37; N, 8.64. Found: C, 63.23; H, 7.11; N, 8.20.

Example 7**2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

5

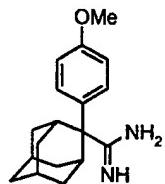
**2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (1.15 g, 60 %) isolated as a white solid: mp 131.5 - 133 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2926, 2852, 2223, 1490, 1454,

- 10 1401, 1108, 1092, 1015 and 824; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.63 – 1.76 (7H, m), 1.99 – 2.05 (3H, m), 2.02 – 2.05 (2H, m), 2.74 (2H, s) and 7.38 – 7.42 (4H, m); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{18}\text{ClN}$ : C, 75.13; H, 6.68; N, 5.15. Found: C, 74.96; H, 6.71; N, 5.13.

**2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

- 15 This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (220 mg, 68 %) isolated as a white solid: mp > 300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3065, 2924, 2855, 1669, 1495, 1454, 1376, 1095, 1012, 822 and 722; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ) 1.61 – 1.66 (7H, m), 1.85 – 1.98 (5H, m), 3.14 (2H, s), 7.50 – 7.52 (4H, m) and 8.89 (4H, br s); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2 \cdot 0.75 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 60.27; H, 6.99; N, 8.27. Found: C, 60.37; H, 6.88; N, 8.07.

**Example 8****2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

5

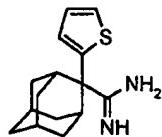
**2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (601 mg, 58 %) isolated as a pale yellow solid: mp 165 - 166.5 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2918, 2855, 10 2220, 1609, 1512, 1458, 1377, 1298, 1260, 1183 and 1029; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.63 (2H, d, *J* 13.0 Hz), 1.75 - 1.81 (5H, m), 1.98 - 2.04 (3H, m), 2.45 (2H, d, *J* 13.0 Hz), 2.74 (2H, s), 3.82 (3H, s), 6.94 (2H, d, *J* 8.5 Hz) and 7.38 (2H, d, *J* 8.5 Hz); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO: C, 80.86; H, 7.92; N, 5.24. Found: C, 80.60; H, 7.94; N, 5.20.

**15 2-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (237 mg, 74 %) isolated as a white solid: mp > 300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3347, 3230, 3134, 2925, 2856, 1670, 1515, 1458, 1259, 1189, 1020 and 829; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) 1.59 - 1.66 (7H, m), 1.85 - 1.89 (5H, m), 3.14 (2H, s), 3.76 (3H, s), 6.98 (2H, d, *J* 8.5 Hz), 7.41 (2H, d, *J* 8.5 Hz) and 8.87 (4H, br s); Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>25</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>O · 1.0 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 63.80; H, 8.03; N, 8.27. Found: C, 64.08; H, 8.23; N, 7.90.

25

**Example 9****2-(2-Thienyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

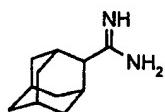
5

**2-(2-Thienyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile**

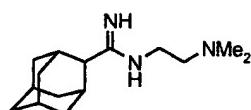
This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(2-thienyl)-2-adamantanol in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanol and the *product* (1.34 g, 78 %) isolated as a light brown solid: mp 108 - 109.5 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2921, 2855, 2227, 1454, 10 1377, 1240, 1104, 820 and 728; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 1.70 (2H, d,  $J$  12.5 Hz), 1.78 (3H, s), 1.97 – 2.05 (5H, m), 2.46 (2H, d,  $J$  12.5 Hz), 2.64 (2H, s), 7.01 – 7.06 (2H, m) and 7.33 (1H, d,  $J$  6.5 Hz); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{17}\text{NS}$ : C, 74.03; H, 7.04; N, 5.75. Found: C, 74.19; H, 7.09; N, 5.73.

**15 2-(2-Thienyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

This was prepared by the method of example 1 using 2-(2-thienyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile in place of 2-(3-ethylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarbonitrile and the *title compound* (160 mg, 54 %) isolated as a white solid: mp >300 °C; IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3073, 2922, 2854, 1670, 1455, 1377, 1246, 1100, 1084 and 698; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ) 1.69 (5H, s), 1.75 – 1.99 (7H, m), 3.16 (2H, s), 7.04 – 7.10 (1H, m), 7.16 – 7.21 (1H, m), 7.56 – 7.60 (1H, m) and 9.0 (4H, br s); Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClN}_2\text{S} \cdot 0.25 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 59.78; H, 7.19; N, 9.30. Found: C, 59.76; H, 7.45; N, 8.71.

**Example 10****2-Adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

- A solution of 2-adamantanecarbonitrile (0.38 g, 2.37 mmol) in MeOH (15 mL) at 0 °C  
 5 was saturated with HCl gas, left at 0 °C for 6 days, concentrated *in vacuo*, dissolved in MeOH (5 mL), saturated with ammonia gas at 0 °C, left at room temperature for 3 days and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH-NH<sub>4</sub>OH (95:5:1)] and the resulting solid triturated with Et<sub>2</sub>O and filtered to give the *title compound* (65 mg, 13 %) as a white crystalline solid: IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup>  
 10 3072, 1678, 1651 and 692; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 1.6 - 1.9 (12H, m), 2.38 (2H, s), 2.85 (1H, s), 8.56 (2H, br s) and 9.00 (2H, br s).

**Example 11****N-(2-Dimethylaminoethyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide hydrochloride**

- 15 This was prepared from 2-adamantanecarbonitrile by the method of example 10 using N,N-dimethylethylenediamine (1 eq) in place of ammonia and the *title compound* isolated (15 %) as a white crystalline solid: IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  (Nujol)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3219, 3076, 2779, 2695, 1688, 1608, 1126, 1037 and 799; NMR  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) 1.5 - 1.7 (6H, m), 1.7 - 1.9 (6H, m), 2.2 - 2.3 (6H, m), 2.41 (2H, s), 2.5 - 2.6 (2H, m), 2.85 (2H, s), 3.4 - 3.5 (2H, m),  
 20 8.66 (2H, br s) and 9.17 (1H, br s).

## II. NMDA Receptor Binding

The NMDA receptor contains several distinct binding domains that can regulate opening of the cationic channel. The phencyclidine (PCP) site of the NMDA receptor can be radiolabelled with [<sup>3</sup>H]-(+)-5-methyl-10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5,10-imine hydrogen maleate, [<sup>3</sup>H-MK-801]. The following describes the procedure for determining the affinity of compounds for the PCP site in rat cortical or cerebellar membranes.

Frozen rat cortex or cerebellum, homogenized in 10 volumes of ice-cold 0.32-M sucrose is centrifuged at 1,000 g for 12 min and the supernatant stored on ice whilst the pellet is resuspended, rehomogenized and recentrifuged twice more. The three final supernatants are pooled and centrifuged at 30,000 g for 40 min at 4°C to yield P<sub>2</sub> pellets. These are resuspended in ice-cold distilled water, and centrifuged at 30,000 g for 50 min at 4°C. Following three further washes in distilled water, the P<sub>2</sub> pellets are stored at -20°C for at least 18 h. On the day of the assay, membrane pellets are thawed at room temperature, resuspended in ice-cold distilled water and centrifuged at 30,000 g for 20 min. The pellets are resuspended in 50-mM tris-HCl (pH:7.4) and recentrifuged twice more before being resuspended in tris-HCl for immediate use in the assay. Binding assays are performed at equilibrium in a total volume of 200 µL, containing [<sup>3</sup>H]-MK-801 (5-nM final conc.), 10-µM glutamate, 10-µM glycine, 160 µL of membrane preparation and additional drugs where appropriate. Non-specific binding is determined using MK-801 (10-µM). The assay is incubated for 120 min at room temperature. The incubation is terminated by rapid filtration through Whatman GF/B filters (pre-soaked in 0.1% PEI solution). The assay tubes and filters are washed five times with 1 mL of ice-cold assay buffer. The filters are placed in poly-Q mini vials with approximately 5 mL of scintillation fluid. The vials are then shaken and left for at least 8 h before being counted on a liquid scintillation counter. To determine the free ligand concentration 3 aliquots (20 µL) of the [<sup>3</sup>H]-MK-801 working solution are also counted. Concentration response data for drugs is analysed using a 4 parameter equation fitted by non-linear regression. This yields the half maximally effective drug concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) and Hill coefficient.

The data obtained from these assays are presented in Table 1. The data clearly demonstrate that the compounds of the invention are active as NMDA antagonists and have favourable ratios of cortical to cerebellar binding affinity indicating that the compounds should be well-tolerated *in vivo*.

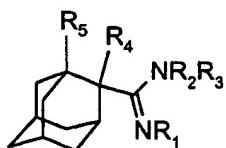
5

**Table 1 - Binding Affinities at Cortical and Cerebellar NMDA Receptors**

Compound	IC <sub>50</sub> Cortex (μM)	IC <sub>50</sub> Cerebellum (μM)	Ratio
Example 4	105	56	1.9
Example 5	53	31	1.7
Example 6	44	25	1.8
Example 7	59	34	1.7
Example 8	45	22	2.0

## CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (1):



5

(1)

wherein:

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl and aryl; and prodrugs thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> and/or R<sub>2</sub> are hydrogen.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is selected from hydrogen, alkyl and aryl.
- 15 4. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen.
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or aryl.
- 20 6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is substituted phenyl.
7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein said phenyl group is substituted by one or more substituent groups selected from methyl, ethyl, methoxy, chloro and fluoro.
- 25 8. A compound according to claim 6 or 7 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is a mono-substituted phenyl and is a para- or ortho-substituted phenyl.

9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is selected from 4-methylphenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl.
- 5 10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R<sub>4</sub> is phenyl or thiophene.
11. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen.
- 10 12. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are hydrogen; and R<sub>4</sub> is substituted phenyl.
13. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:  
2-(4-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide;  
2-(2-methylphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide;  
15 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide;  
2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide; and  
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-adamantanecarboximidamide.
14. Use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission.  
20
15. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for use in therapy.
- 25 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
17. A method of treatment of a condition generally associated with abnormalities in glutamatergic transmission comprising administration to a patient in need of such

treatment of a pharmaceutically effective dose of a compound of formula (1) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/GB 99/00321

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 6 C07C257/16 C07D333/24 A61K31/155

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 6 C07C C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 829 581 A (RICHARD L. ELLIS) 13 August 1974 cited in the application see column 1, line 31 - line 47; claims; examples 4,B -----	1-5,11, 15,16
A	EP 0 392 059 A (MERZ & CO.) 17 October 1990 cited in the application see page 5, line 50 - page 6, line 27; claims; examples -----	1-17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 May 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/06/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Zervas, B

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/GB 99/00321

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)**

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 17  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Remark: Although claim 17  
is directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal  
body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged  
effects of the compounds.

2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such  
an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all  
searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment  
of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report  
covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is  
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/00321

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 3829581	A	13-08-1974	NONE		
EP 392059	A	17-10-1990	AT	94384 T	15-10-1993
			CA	2014453 A	14-10-1990
			CH	679208 A	15-01-1992
			DD	293493 A	05-09-1991
			DE	8910665 U	05-04-1990
			DE	58905637 D	21-10-1993
			DK	91690 A	15-10-1990
			HU	215592 B	28-01-1999
			IE	63467 B	19-04-1995
			JP	2292214 A	03-12-1990
			JP	2821233 B	05-11-1998
			PT	93763 A,B	20-11-1990
			SE	9001329 A	15-10-1990
			US	5061703 A	29-10-1991